

SPRING
2025



BUSINESS NAME

CONNEXIONS

Registered charity
1098781



The
Gift of Life
Memorial

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter

We have welcomed many new members over the last few months and hope that they are managing to find a measure of hope and peace.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can offer any support at all.

Talk openly about your grief and be kind to yourself. When a wave of sadness comes, let it break over you and it will pass. Look to the sunshine; let the shadows fall behind you.

If there is anything you would like to share with other families in a future edition of our newsletter, please do let us know. This may be a photo of your loved one, an article about your donation journey or a few words as you approach a special day. Maybe you have read a nice poem that others would appreciate?

Our grateful thanks go to all those who have allowed their stories to be used in this edition.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nigel P. Burton".

Nigel Burton - Chairman



**Thankyou to everyone who has donated
to the DFN or fund raised for the charity**



Donations received

Bird & Co

Methwold Ladies Group

Scalm Park Golf Club

M Johnston

Shell (employee Stephen Miller chose DFN as the recipient of a donation in memory of his father who was a corneal donor)

Mulligans Golf Day

The Bryant Family

Royalties from sales of James Ainscough's book 'Freddie and the Magic Heart'

James Burrough

Nick Raycraft

Chris and Jan Veitch

Jill Royle

Samantha Toni Williams

Gavin Shorrocks

Clare Martin

Donations in memory of:

Mark Slater

Rita Ledger in memory of her daughter Anna

Brenda Shave in memory of her husband Peter

Renzo and Vickie Giovannini in memory of their son Luca

Claire Mercer in memory of her brother Russell Holmes

Elizabeth Phillips in memory of her husband Rick

Vince Mott in memory of his daughter Phoebe Elizabeth

Penny Staley in memory of her daughter Evey Rose

Sue Evans in memory of her husband Barry

Martyn Smith in memory of his wife Christine

Lesley O'Donoghue in memory of her daughter Debbie

Stella Nash in memory of her son Robert

R & V Livingstone in memory of their son Peter

Elaine Massey in memory of her husband David

Pauline Holmes in memory of her son Russell

Donations in memory of Gavin Shorrocks



Thankyou to our donors regular donors:

Roger Quick

SJ Hall

Esther Watt-Jones

Paul White

Keith Astbury

Judy Coutinho

Patrick Gallagher

Pauline McDonnell

A Heron

Darren Cox

J Fletcher

The London Doctors Orchestra Choir (LDOC) keeps alive the long tradition of music in medicine by holding regular concerts in aid of charities. Every concert supports a different charity, mostly with a medical theme. At a recent concert the DFN were their chosen charity and we are extremely grateful for the funds they raised.



Louise Blackburn, from the choir Voices Entwined, continues to raise funds for the charity in memory of her brother David Sheppard.

Louise tells us, "David was only 42 when he died. He was told in December 2023 that he had a brain tumour. David was well known around Birmingham, working as a hotel porter and a cellar man in various pubs. He was a friendly man, much loved around the rock music scene.

In March 2024 he underwent a 16 hour operation for the brain tumour. Ten days post surgery he shockingly suffered a cardiac arrest and went into a coma. Soon after we were told that he wasn't going to recover. Whilst we prepared to say goodbye we were informed that, unbeknownst to us, David had registered as an organ donor on 5th January. This was just after he had been told he would need a large operation.

I work as a choir and workshop leader and had booked an event to take place over 12 months ago. I decided to carry on with the event and use it as a fundraiser and also to raise awareness about organ and tissue donation and the Donor Family Network. Over 50 people took part in the event.

David chose to gift people with life, a selfless act with no reward for himself. Truly a testament to the lovely, kind, beautiful man that he was. We will miss him every day. We are proud of the donation that was raised in his name at his funeral and this event. The Donor Family Network have been a huge support to us in the darkest time of our lives".



Donations received from **Lesley Haynes**, in memory of George, who donated in October 2024. Lesley says, "George was always willing to help others when they needed him and even now, after his death, he has helped others too".





Andrew McCann's page has continued to raise funds through a golf day held in memory of Tim Cook.

JustGiving™



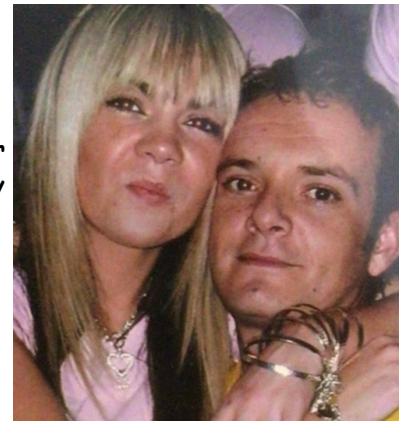
DFN member **Helen Gleave** has set up a Just Giving page in memory of her husband Peter who donated in November 2020. Helen and a group of four friends each walked over 50 miles during the month of January.



Shannon Jessop has created a page in memory of Joanne McVeigh and says, "before mum died she was able to donate her liver and both kidneys. We were told that her liver went to a young man and saved his life. As devastating as it was losing her, the Donor Family Network helped to support us and comfort us in what was probably the most difficult time in our lives".



Every Christmas **Jack Amesbury** sets up a Just Giving page, for family and friends to sponsor a Christmas Tree bauble in memory of his son Dayle.



Bernadette Wilkins created a Just Giving page in memory of her brother Michael who donated in November 2024.

On her page she says, "we realised that his death could be the beginning of hope for others and his kidneys went on to give two strangers a second chance; We hope transforming their lives, and their families, in difficult and uncertain times.

The Donor Family Network is a guiding light in this journey which is in its early stages for us. They support families as they grapple with the complexity of grief and help celebrate their loved one's legacy in ways never thought possible. They provide a space where donor families and recipients can connect, share and heal".

Rachel shares her memories of her mum:

"My lovely Mum passed away on 16th September 2024 from liver failure caused by PBC. She was originally diagnosed 29 years ago when PBC wasn't really heard of and by this time it had already progressed to cirrhosis. My Mum loved to cook and because she had to have a low salt diet she made lots of no salt recipes that impressed the doctors so much, the dietitian teamed up with her and other patients with liver disease.

She had her liver transplant in March 1997 with thanks to Susan, her liver donor. She supported the PBC Foundation charity and helped with fundraising over the years and met various other patients through the support group.

Mum's health stayed good over the years but unfortunately because PBC is an autoimmune disease it came back in the donor liver. She was put on a drug called URSO to try and slow down the damage to her liver but in 2021 it finally progressed to full blown cirrhosis once more. By this time her kidneys were also damaged from the complications and another transplant was out of the question.

She refused to let her illness stop her from doing anything and continued to enjoy gardening, cooking and baking until the start of 2024 when her health really started to deteriorate. From May she had been in and out of hospital with complications.

She suffered terribly with severe oedema in her legs and ascites which she had drained. Although she had oesophageal varices she was fortunate not to have any bleeding but the encephalopathy was the worse. It started with slight memory problems but then progressed to unsteadiness on her feet which resulted in her falling and fracturing her hip.

She had her hip fixed but never walked again as by this time she was so ill and the encephalopathy worsened with slurred speech and tremors.

She went to a hospice where we spent her final four weeks together before she passed away.



Mum's donor enabled us to have her around for 27 more years and we're so grateful for that extra time.

She was 81 when she passed away and those last couple of years when her liver was failing were difficult but she was so brave. She never complained even though she must have felt so ill at times. I'm so proud of her and love and miss her every single day".

We thank Suzanne for sharing her story about her daughter Anna:

"Anna was born on October 21st 1995. The first Goodfellow daughter for 4 generations. My husband Dave and I were simply blown away by her coming into this world.

Anna was a curious, sweet and very loving child. Shy and quirky. From an early age she would be found looking at books, turning the pages over with an insatiable thirst for finding out and learning. As a much loved first grandchild she reaped the benefits of having 4 grandparents to indulge her. Her love of the outdoors meant that she was often in her wellies, helping me in the garden. She would squeal with delight when the hose came out on sunny days. She enjoyed the thrills of being in the sea and having the wind in her hair and she was a tree hugger. In her ballet class, she quite unexpectedly became her teacher's protégé. Her other great passion was animals, especially the in-laws' 4 cats, and she loved to collect miniature animal figures which she proudly displayed in her bedroom.

Anna was followed closely by Charlotte. The two of them were inseparable and spent much of their time together dressing up as fairies, cats and Disney princesses. Anna had a maturity about her and really took Charlotte under her wing. She also had a great sense of humour, throwing her head back infectiously as she laughed, always up for a silly joke. Then Billy came along. He was born at home. One of my clearest memories is of Anna creeping into the room to see him in the early hours and giving me an excited smile. She was so proud to have a brother and her love for her family, for life itself, will always be something that I remember. One of her Grandpas said she was 'the little girl who loved everyone'.

Anna went to the local infant school and thrived in this environment, running out at the end of the day with a smile on her face and a new book. Her thirst for reading and learning never waned, above all a bookworm if ever there was one. She would draw and paint enthusiastically, mainly cats and her family and she had a best friend who she used to chatter away with, apparently quite a lot! At her school Christmas party, she stole the show with her hilarious dinosaur costume which she insisted on walking to school in.

So for a very short time there were 5 of us, a typical, ordinary young family creating a life together.

On Friday January 12th, I picked up Anna from school. She was very excited as all the neighbours were coming over later for a post Xmas gathering. I didn't see Anna much over the course of the evening, she was playing with the other children and lapping up the attention. It was a fun night, and with the additional news of a work promotion that day, Dave and I both felt that life was finally settling down.



My last memory of Anna that evening is her smiling and waving at me through the bannisters, saying 'night night, Mummy' as Dave took her up to bed, piggyback style. At around 4.30am I woke to a hot, pitch black, hazy and weirdly noisy house, muffled smoke alarms and I sensed immediately that something was seriously wrong. Our home was on fire. What happened over the next couple of minutes as the fire took hold was the most unimaginable, horrific and devastating experience which shattered our lives.



Somehow, I managed to get out of the house with Charlotte and Billy. Anna and Dave were found together, unconscious on the landing. I was informed later in A & E that Dave had not survived. The paramedics had managed to resuscitate Anna, but she had been without a heartbeat for 40 minutes. On hearing this, any glimmer of hope faded. I knew deep down that the likelihood of her surviving at all was extremely small. She was transferred up to Guy's Hospital for further testing.

I was discharged from hospital 24 hours later and taken up to Guys, where I remember bursting through the PICU doors and seeing little Anna on a bed, all wired up and on a ventilator. My memories are fragmented, harrowing, yet to get to her and be with her was an immense relief. At some point over the next few hours, I was told that Anna was most likely brain stem dead and that she would not survive without ventilation, confirmed by the neurological testing.

I was able to have some time holding her and while she was in my arms the life support machines started to bleep loudly. The ICU nurse told me that Anna had waited for me and that she was now starting to deteriorate. In these moments I recalled the conversation I'd had with Dave just 2 weeks previously. We had watched an episode of Holby City about donating a child's organs. Dave had said he would unquestionably donate. I had been much less certain, the thought of having to make that decision was unimaginable, but on the back of our conversation and feeling supported by Dave's wishes, I decided to go ahead. I also knew that if Anna had had a choice, she would have wanted others to have the opportunity to live. I have no doubt about that. Without the conversation with Dave, I honestly don't know what I would have decided. Donating my child's organs was not something I ever thought I would have to consider. It was all very surreal.

From this point onwards, I remember the focus on Anna shifting into an intense clinical process. The SNOD, Heather, was a remarkable woman who stayed by my side throughout this time, explaining each step. She was with Anna during the organ retrieval and washed her hair which had turned grey with the smoke. When Anna came out of surgery, I held her for as long as I could. Close friends had brought her a purple dress to wear, Anna's favourite colour. With the help of the ICU staff we took hand and footprints and cut a few of her washed curls. I have no recollection of saying a final goodbye to her body or leaving the hospital. What did stay with me, however, was the unwavering kindness and sensitivity of the ICU staff and their tender care and consideration for Anna and I. We were treated throughout with the utmost respect by all those involved at this utterly unimaginable time.

Anna was blood group A/B. Her kidneys, liver and heart tissues were donated to 2 adults and 3 children, her liver was flown over to Berlin. Heather informed me who the recipients were and kept in touch for some time. We attended an organ donation candle service in Southwark Cathedral and she accompanied me when I spoke as a donor mother at a Critical Care Organ Donation conference at King's College. And then somehow this chapter simply fell through the cracks and remained unspoken about for over 22 years, until I bought a ticket to the Kicking the Bucket Festival of Living and Dying in November 2023. A SNOD was speaking about organ donation and my racing heart told me that it was time to reopen this deeply traumatic yet significant chapter in Anna's short life.

Since then, with the support of NHSBT, I have been able to contact 2 of the surviving recipients. I was immensely proud and grateful to collect the Order of St John for Anna in May last year with Charlotte, Billy and my mother. I then plucked up the courage to join the Donor Family Network which has been simply transformative for me. It was an honour to present medals to recipients participating at the Transplant Games and following the Precious Gift Event in September, my intention was set to become more involved in Organ Donation at a local level. I am in regular contact with my regional SNOD and have just attended my first Organ Donation committee meeting at the Royal Surrey Hospital. Now, as both a donor mother and a clinical psychotherapist, I am very interested in discussions around how to mitigate further trauma for donor families when navigating this highly complex process.

Thank you DFN for welcoming me into the community so warmly. Being able to put these words down here, to paint a picture of dear little Anna and what happened 24 years ago has been a huge privilege and a deeply cathartic experience that I am very grateful for".



Recipient **Boryana Nankove** has been selected for Team GB, to attend the World Transplant Games 2025, in Dresden. She has kindly agreed that we can share her words from the Just Giving page she has set up to fund-raise toward the costs of her registration and flights.

She says:

"After surviving two liver transplants in one week in 2013, I am very proud to be planning to represent Team GB again. The Games raise awareness of organ transplantation and help spread the message about the importance of organ donation and the benefits of receiving an organ.

Since discovering Transplant Sport in 2018, I have been involved in representing both the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham and Team GB at the British, European and World Transplant Games. I compete in my favourite sport of table tennis and I am proud to have won Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals at these competitions.

My story

In 2013, I suddenly became ill and was admitted to Warwick Hospital for investigation. My general condition was absolutely fine but my jaundice indicated that something was seriously wrong. I was transferred under blue lights to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

I became increasingly concerned about my deteriorating condition and my worst fears became true when the Doctors confirmed that I would need a liver transplant to save my life. I was totally shocked!



I was placed on the super-urgent waiting list in the hope that a suitable liver could be found in time. Fortunately, after just 48 hours a donor was found and I underwent my life saving operation. Unfortunately, after just a few days, my transplanted liver failed, and, after being placed back on the super-urgent list, another donor was found and I underwent my second liver transplant! After my two transplants, my condition was extremely poor as I lost my mobility and I felt a completely different person compared to how I had felt just a week before. My road to recovery was extremely long and difficult and I am grateful to all the medical professionals that eventually helped me to get back to my normal life!

I am really fortunate to be alive and I encourage everyone to discuss and share the importance of organ donation. I now live a second life thanks to my Donor.

Saying thankyou to my Donor just isn't enough. I am only alive today because a very kind lady was on the donor register. I am so grateful and want to give something back as a way of saying thankyou. No words are enough to explain what the value of my new life is. My donated organ is my treasure and a true gift of life.

Thankyou for reading my story x "

We wish Boryana all the best for the World Transplant Games.

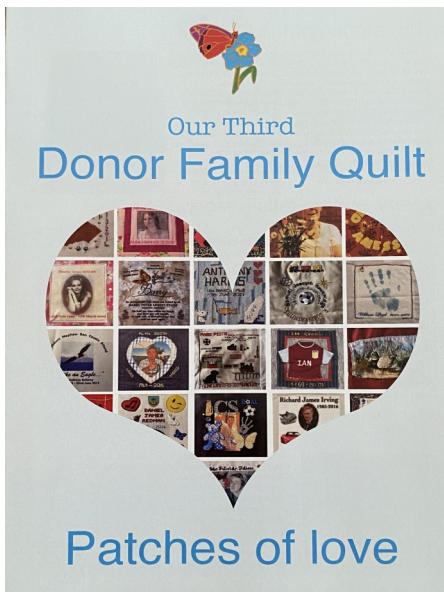


Patches of Love 3

The Donor Family quilts are a tribute to those who have given the "Gift of Life". Each square is unique and is designed by a donor family to remember their loved one and is a visual display of love.

We are delighted to have completed our third memorial quilt, made up of patches designed by many of our families. Our grateful thanks go to Trustee Eunice for sewing it all together and to the families who made the squares in memory of their loved ones.

The quilt will go with us to all of our events, alongside the first two quilts and the children's quilts. Everyone loves to see them when we are out and about



As with the other two quilts we have produced a Patches of Love booklet which has now been printed. We have sent a copy of the Patches of Love 3 booklet to all those families who made a square for this quilt.

Pictures and stories are on our website for all three booklets. You are welcome to request hard copies of any of the booklets directly from us.

Graham Moore

In December 2024 we were saddened to hear of the death of Graham Moore, previously Chairman and CEO, and subsequently Honorary Life-Time President of Westfield Health, who have been the main sponsor of the British Transplant Games for a number of years.

The current Chair of Westfield Health said, "he single-handedly drove our long-term strategic charitable partnership with the British Transplant Games, which he lovingly attended every year".

Many of you who have attended the Games will remember him for his warm smile and passionate speeches at the Opening Ceremonies. He was forever a firm supporter of the Donor Family Network .



The Story of the Heart by Rachel Clarke

This is the remarkable story of Keira and Max and the medical innovations that make heart transplantation possible, following the story of how one family's grief transformed into a life-saving gift.

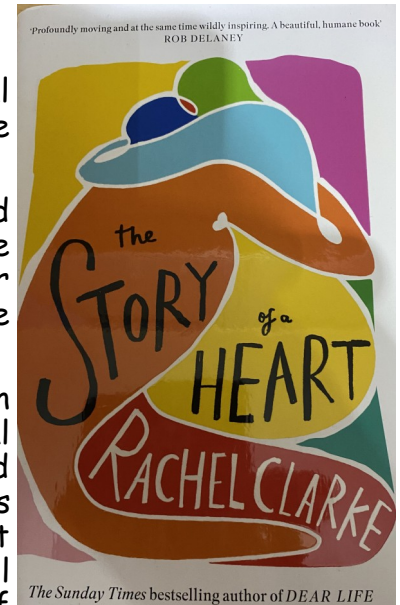
Following a virus which attacked his heart, Max, aged nine, had been in hospital for a year during which time his parents were advised that only a heart transplant would save him. His father said, "The function of Max's heart was terrible. That was the reality".

In July 2017, nine-year-old Keira suffered catastrophic injuries in a car accident. On 2nd August 2017, after saying their final goodbyes, in an act of extraordinary generosity, her parents and siblings agreed to organ donation. Keira's father Joe said, "this is exactly what she would have wanted. We are totally confident about that". Later that day, a moment was taken in theatre when all the physicians involved gave thoughts to the donor, a time of reflection and appreciation. Max was a perfect match. His parents had been waiting for this moment for 196 days and were feeling grateful yet guilty. The following day Max's mum said, "I was so used to his pale face and now his cheeks were pink again".

In time, Max met with Keira's family and he campaigned long and hard for the change in the law. On 20th May 2020 the opt-out law was passed and named "Max and Keira's Law". Max continues to speak eloquently and promote organ donation at every opportunity.

This story is an emotional read, relates the urgent journey of Keira's heart, deals with the work of the Specialist Nurses, brain stem death and explores the history of heart transplantation stretching back over a century.

This book is available from the DFN library. All books may be borrowed with no charge. We just ask that the cost of returning them to us is paid by the borrower. A short synopsis of all books is available on our website. Please contact us if you would like to borrow this or any other.



Research in relation to organ and tissue donation continues and develops rapidly, allowing major developments around the world. The DFN is involved with a number of stakeholder groups in relation to research projects, offering the donor family perspective. The opinions of donor families are very important and researchers value our input.



Your experiences are really important, together with the reason you made the decision you did regarding research when your loved one donated. Most of you will have been asked if organs could be used for research if transplantation was not possible.

We will be sending a survey out by e mail in the near future and would really appreciate it if you could take the time to complete this and return it to us. The researchers need to know how donor families feel and you are the people who can best tell them.

We want to assure you that if you feel able to help us with this project, all personal data will be confidential and our findings will only be shared with the relevant people and totally anonymously.

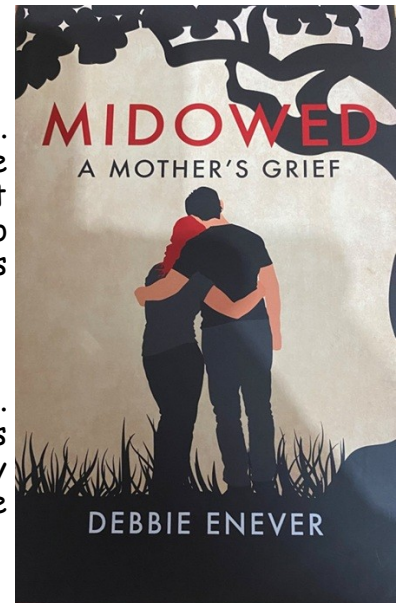
Thank you in advance for giving consideration to assisting us in this way.

Midowed, A Mother's Grief

by Debbie Enever

When 15 year old Dan dies unexpectedly Debbie's world shatters. Turning to the solitude of memories, Debbie pens a journal of the first year of her grief and charts a course through the most difficult experience of her life. She says, "I wrote the book to help make it all seem more real, to have a lasting memento of his life and my love for him, and to allow others to walk in my shoes".

On 26th May 2018 Dan Robinson, aged 15 was involved in an RTA. Sadly, his injuries were catastrophic and his mum Debbie was told that nothing else could be done to save him. The family agree to organ donation and as she kisses Dan goodbye Debbie said "everyone we've told has said how proud they are of you".



Debbie then navigates her way through the early days of loss and grief, dealing with visitors and the funeral director, the hours spent in his room sobbing and the way she sees him everywhere.

At his funeral Debbie was honoured to speak about the 15 years she had with Dan and the wonderful memories he left her. She adds, "its humbling to know Dan's final gift was to donate his major organs, in the hope some good would come from tragedy". As Debbie journals the days as they pass, she explains how she attends counselling and returns to work and by the second month is wondering how the organ recipients are doing, whilst emotionally battling with the idea of a life without Dan.

In April 2019 Debbie is honoured to receive the Order of St John Award, when she confirms, "knowing Dan was in favour of organ donation means it wasn't my idea, it was his". On the first anniversary of his death Debbie's thoughts slide back to the same time the year previously.



Debbie told us, "I hope the book will resonate with other bereaved parents and allow others to have insight into the reality of the intensity of that first year of shock and sadness. I wanted it too, to offer a ray of hope, both because of Dan's gift of organs and to show that you can survive the seemingly un-survivable".

Throughout this remarkable account she dreams, she cries, she remembers. So many of us would relate to her story - please consider reading it.

Debbie has since launched the Bereaved Parents' Club Podcast - where discussions are held not just about organ donation but all aspects of child loss, allowing parents to share their stories, talk about their child and offer words of comfort and support. There have been a range of guests, including Vicki Caldwell talking about organ donation (episode #8). There is a website at <https://www.bereavedparentsclub.org.uk> where all 19 podcasts can be found.



This book is available from the DFN library. All books may be borrowed at no charge. We just ask that the cost of returning them to us is paid by the borrower. A short synopsis of all books is available on our website. Please contact us if you would like to borrow this or any other

The Call

A ceramic public artwork, created by artists in partnership with donor families and organ recipients was unveiled at Manchester University Hospital in September 2024. Groups of families whose loved ones sadly died, but saved so many others by becoming organ donors, along with people whose lives were saved by donors, worked together for over four years to create the unique artwork, with poet John McAuliffe and lead artists Liam Curtis and Stephen Raw.



The ceramic mural features poem "The Call", written by John McAuliffe who worked closely with donor families and recipients to capture their experiences when going through life changing surgery.

**IT'S NEVER TOO
EARLY TO SAVE
THE DATE.**

More details will be in our Summer newsletter, but please let us know if you are available to join us.

Everyone is welcome!



Launch of the British Transplant Games 2025

Some of the DFN Trustees attended the launch event held recently in Blenheim Palace, which is one of the venues for the British Transplant Games 2025, including the Opening Ceremony. It will be a lovely venue for the donor walk, attracting over 2000 participants. The Games will take place over 4 days (31st July to 3rd August 2025), around 17 venues, with over 3000 participants, 23 sports and 8000 bed nights.

Donor Families Team Manager, Jim recently attended the Team Managers meeting and took a tour of the venues. We already have some rooms reserved near Abingdon in a couple of hotels. If you want accommodation with the Donor Families team, please email Jim at jim@jimfallow.plus.com as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made. Anybody who is registered for the games will be able to park and tour the palace and grounds with no charge over the games weekend.

For those who attended the games in Nottingham, you should have received a reactivation email for your registration - please contact Jim if you haven't done so.

If you weren't there and want to attend this year you will need to register online which opened in February. Details of how to register will be posted on our Facebook page but feel free to email us for more details. Once registration closes on May 9th Jim will contact everyone with more detailed information about venues, the games schedule and much more.

As usual, there will be an evening reception for donor families on the Friday. This will be held at the Loose Cannon Brewery which is a short distance from both hotels. If you have never been able to attend the Games, please take it from those who have that it is an incredible affirmation of the benefits of transplantation and, for donor families, confirmation (if it were needed) that your decision has had a very significant and positive effect on the recipients. The opportunity to meet and talk with recipients and their families is one of the highlights of the games every year.

The Trustees look forward to meeting all the donor families who have attended in the past and many attending for the first time.



Blenheim Palace

- Opening Ceremony
- Archery
- Road Race
- Donor Run
- Pétanque
- Children's Friday Night Social



BritishTransplantGames.co.uk

TRANSPLANT ACTIVE

Westfield BRITISH TRANSPLANT GAMES OXFORD 2025



The **World Transplant Games** have been in existence for over 45 years, the first being held in Portsmouth in 1978, called the "Transplant Olympics". Since these early beginnings in 1978 with 99 competitors from five countries, the Games have grown and are now held every two years in different countries. By 2015 there were over 1000 competitors from 56 countries taking part and numbers continue to grow.

The **David Nix World Transplant Games Bursary** was introduced in 2019 when the Games were held in Newcastle. Further bursaries were offered to athletes for the World Games in Perth in 2023 and are being made available once again this year as the Games go to Dresden, Germany. The possibility of a bursary is offered by the Donor Family Network to athletes selected to represent Team GB at the World Transplant Games. Our Life President David Nix has considered the good number of applications received this year and has selected six athletes to benefit from a Bursary toward their costs.

Following the Games we will contact the athletes requesting photographs and more about their experience as a recipient representing their country and share their stories in a future newsletter. Some excerpts from their applications:

Imagen, aged 13, is a regular at the British Transplant Games. She received a liver at 4 months of age, so has been competing since she was 5. She says, "it is a massive honour to be asked to go to the World Games. I am looking forward to using social media to promote organ donation and the DFN. I love the butterflies you run with at the Donor Run".

Michael, a kidney recipient, is also attending the World Transplant Games for the first time, after taking part in 7 British Transplant Games. He says, "this opportunity is more than just a chance to compete; it's a platform to promote awareness of organ transplantation and its life-changing impact".

Jack, aged 16, received a bone marrow transplant in 2022 and his mum says that going to Dresden, "not only showcases his athletic ability but also serves as a testament to the life saving gift he received from his donor".

Young mum **Victoria** underwent a heart transplant in 2023 and says, "I have been overwhelmed with the most beautiful gift of life already; my new heart! I am beyond grateful. I would love to show my donor family just how I am looking after their precious gift".

All those selected are no doubt very proud and excited to be part of Team GB. We offer all of Team GB our best wishes for their time in Dresden and we are sure they will come back with plenty of medals and will have had the opportunity of sharing their experiences with recipients from around the world.



Donor Family Network
PO Box 127
Bexley
Kent
DA5 9DT

Phone: 03330 129 025

E-mail: info@donorfamilynetwork.co.uk

www.donorfamilynetwork.co.uk



Waiting to live dolls

A campaign "Waiting to Live" was launched by NHS Blood and Transplant to bring awareness of the long wait for children on the organ donor waiting list.

In a bid to raise vital awareness of the need for more child organ donors' more than 230 handmade dolls were placed in waiting rooms across the country. Many of the dolls were based on real children on the waiting list.

Each doll wore a QR code which linked to a dedicated campaign site, which allows people to listen to stories of children who are waiting and register as a donor.

A Lead Nurse from NHS blood and Transplant said, "For many children waiting on the transplant list their only hope is the parent of another child saying "yes" at a time of immense sadness. Yet families tell us that agreeing to organ donation can be a great source of comfort".

One of the creative leads behind the campaign adds, "working with the families was heart-breaking at times, we can't even imagine what they must be going through, but we hope this campaign does their stories justice, raises awareness and, crucially, encourages more parents to consider adding their children to the NHS Organ Donation Register".

In a press release dated 16.12.24 NHSBT announced that nine of the children who had a doll made to represent them have now received their transplant.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS
SO THAT WE CAN UPDATE OUR DATA BASE**